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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Monday, November 9, 1936

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "FOODS AND DRUGS, ADULTERATED AND/OR MISBRANDED." From the Federal Food and Drug Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Friends, I hope you haven't been taken in lately by certain patent medicines labeled with false and fraudulent medicinal claims.

Among these products were "British Oil," "Chambers Cold Tablets," "Dr. Goodman's Herbal Compound," "Help Nature Tablets," "Old Indian Liniment," "Hot Springs Mineral Wonder Health Water." And there were others, according to our correspondent with the Federal Food and Drug Administration, who reports that during September patent medicines, falsely labeled, represented the largest single class of violations of the Federal Food and Drugs Act.

One of the products seized, "British Oil," consisted of crude petroleum, turpentine and other oils. It was offered for the treatment of rheumatic disorders, contusions and "contractions of the nerves," wandering and other pains, palsy, lameness, swelling, inflammations, fresh wounds, cuts, deafness, cough, and shortness of breath.

Another "cure-all" taken off the market, "Dr. Goodman's Herbal Compound," included plant drugs, laxatives, aromatics, and potassium and sodium salts. This "Herbal Compound" was offered for stomach, liver, kidneys, blood, bladder, rheumatism, malarial chills and fever.

The next one, "Hot Springs Mineral Wonder Health Water," was "a lightly mineralized and slightly alkaline water, very similar to that of many city water supplies." It was labeled as useful "for your health's sake."

Two "Indian" products were among those seized. "Indian Remedy," a water solution of Epsom salt and a minute amount of an iron compound, was offered for a wide variety of ailments, as was also "Old Indian Liniment," consisting principally of kerosene, with small amounts of mustard oil, eucalyptus oil and camphor.

Three of the preparations seized for violation of the law purported to treat dandruff, eczema, falling hair and itching scalp. Two of them -- "Olive Hair Oil" and "Olive Hair Tonic" -- were falsely represented as being of Italian origin.

Among the pharmaceuticals seized were 480 cartons of absorbent cotton, labeled "sterilized," but found to contain living bacteria.



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Now, the food seizures. Decomposition and dirt were responsible for the seizure of 1,780 cases of canned tomato juice, two barrels of pickles, 93 crates of blueberries, 5,000 pounds of dried peaches, 20,400 pounds of fresh coconuts. Also, 81 cases of apple butter, 73,420 cases of canned salmon, and 94 cases of canned shrimp.

Butter, more than 6,000 pounds of it, was seized because of decomposition and dirt, and more than 9,000 pounds because of butterfat content below the legal requirement of 80 percent.

Quoting this report directly:

"Food and Drug officials last February seized over a hundred tubs of butter shipped from one creamery. The butter contained less than 80 percent butterfat. The creamery which shipped the butter is reported to have a weekly output of from 11,000 to 18,000 pounds, all of which is shipped within the jurisdiction of the Food and Drugs Act. Each percent of butterfat below the 80 percent required by law means that the creamery is selling, every week, from 110 to 180 pounds of water at the price of butter. With butter at 40 cents a pound, this represents an illegal gain of from \$44 to \$72 a week.

"The butter seized last February amounted to 131 tubs, each one containing 64 pounds. It was released to the creamery, under bond, for reworking. When the illegal butter was reworked to the legal standard, there was a loss of over eight tubs, that is, over 550 pounds. Figured at 40 cents a pound, this would have meant an illegal gain of \$220 on this shipment, if Food and Drug officials had not compelled the creamery to rework the butter to remove the extra water."

Now -- to return to the products seized during September, for violation of the law. Again quoting directly:

"The beginning of the season for heavy shipment of fruit brought the first seizures of apples and pears because of poisonous spray residues. Officials seized a total of 1.290 bushels of these fruits.

"Other fruit products libeled during the month were 450 cases of canned grapefruit juice adulterated with water, 180 cases of canned strawberries artificially colored, and containing sodium benzoate, without any label declaration of its presence, and 96 jars of jam containing less fruit than the customer would expect."

And so concludes today's report of adulterated and/or misbranded foods and drugs, taken off the market as one of the routine duties of the Federal Food and Drug Administration, to protect consumers.

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